

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3 and 6 and non-elected claims 1 and 15-98 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 2, 4, 7-8, 10-11, and 14.

Please add new claims 99-100.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes ~~at least ten consecutive amino acids of a polypeptide having comprising an amino acid a sequence~~ corresponding to set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 2 or 3.

5. (Original) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 4.

6. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to ~~claim 6~~ any one of claims 7, 99, and 100.

9. (Original) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 8.

10. (Currently Amended) An antisense polynucleotide comprising ~~at least 15 consecutive nucleotides~~ a polynucleotide that is complementary to a polynucleotide according to any one of ~~claim 6~~ claims 2, 7, 99, and 100.

11. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that detectably hybridizes to the complement of the sequence recited in SEQ ID NO:1 under moderately stringent conditions that include a wash in 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS at 60 °C for 15 minutes, wherein the isolated polynucleotide exhibits at least 90% nucleotide identity to a polynucleotide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein the isolated polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide capable of dephosphorylating an activated mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAP-kinase).

12. (Original) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 10 or claim 11.

13. (Original) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 12.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a dual specificity phosphatase 12 (DSP-12) polypeptide, comprising the steps of:

(a) culturing a host cell according to claim 9 under conditions that permit

15-98 (Cancelled)

99. (New) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide capable of dephosphorylating an activated mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAP-kinase), said polynucleotide comprising a sequence at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

100. (New) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide capable of dephosphorylating an activated mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAP-kinase), said polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein aspartic acid is located at position 222 and the peptide sequence CLVHCKMGVSRSASTVIAYAM (SEQ ID NO:3) is located at positions 249 through 269 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a sequence at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.